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BROMSGROVE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL:



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1954.



BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1954.

Chairman of the Council.—COUNCILLOR H. WEBLEY.

Vice-Chairman—COUNCILLOR C. H. TOMLINSON.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman—COUNCILLOR P. D. LANE.
COUNCILLOR F. BERWICK.
COUNCILLOR MRS. K. M. FIELD.
COUNCILLOR R. FLETCHER, O.B.E.
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. F. FRANKS.
COUNCILLOR A. W. GRANT.
COUNCILLOR DR. D. C. MUNDY.
COUNCILLOR A. SPEARS.
COUNCILLOR C. H. TOMLINSON.
COUNCILLOR L. G. WAGSTAFF.
COUNCILLOR H. WEBLEY.
COUNCILLOR S. WEDGBURY.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).
Assistant County Medical Officer.
V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., Ch.B.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).
Assistant County Medical Officer.
H. HOLDEN, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Liverpool University Meat and Food Certificate.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.
Shops Inspector, Petroleum Officer.
C. J. BURFORD, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.B.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
D. J. WAITE, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.B.,
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Clerks : Miss B. WASS, Miss P. WALLACE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of the public health of Bromsgrove Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The "statistical" decline in the health of the residents of Bromsgrove mentioned in the 1953 Report was halted by the Registrar General's revision of certain of the provisions of circular G.R.O. (M.O.H.) No. 4/1952 dealing with transferable deaths. Under the revised arrangements chronic sick wards of certain hospitals were reprieved as "normal places of residence." This brought about a much more realistic picture of the mortality figures and the death-rate for the District came in line with the national figures.

Infectious disease notifications returned to more normal figures with the biennial decline in Measles. The numbers on the Tuberculosis List declined in spite of an increase in notifications. A large number of cases were removed from the List as "recovered" and "left district."

Representations for Demolition Order Action of sub-standard property was continued. By the end of the year forty-eight unfit houses had been represented since August, 1952. Twenty-four houses were demolished during this same period. These represent roughly 5 per cent of the problem. It is, however, a good beginning.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support and consideration and Mr. Jessop, my fellow Officers and their staffs for their help and advice. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Holden and the staff of the Health Department for their continued enthusiastic work.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Vera Pugh for deputising so willingly for me during my absences from the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 9,228 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of Population mid : 1954—29,020
1953—28,700
1952—28,460
1951—28,550
1938—23,540

(Census 1951—27,924).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of : 1954—8,419

1953—8,201

1952—7,978

1951—7,736

1938—6,902

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1954 : £157,475.

Product of Penny Rate : £623 14s. 7d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1953 figures given in brackets).

Population :

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed an increase of 320 when compared with the 1953 figure.

The natural increase in the population (births/deaths), was 107, suggesting an immigration figure of 213.

Live Births.

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	219	204	423 (417)
Illegitimate	...	10	6	16 (17)
Total	...	229	210	439 (434)

Birth Rate.

(Births, per 1,000 population).

1954	1953	1938	1954 (England and Wales).
15.27	15.12	17.8	15.2 (15.5)

Illegitimacy Rate.

(Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births).

1954	1953	1952	1938	1954 (England & Wales)
36.80	39.17	45.00	33.5	46.0

The number of births showed a slight increase of 5 over 1953. This brought the district birth-rate in line with the national average which at 15.2 was 0.3 per thousand less than in 1953.

The number of illegitimate births was again 1 less than in the previous year. The illegitimate birth-rate being well below the national average of 46.0 per 1,000 total live births.

Still Births.

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	4	2	6 (7)
Illegitimate	...	—	—	— (—)
Total	...	4	2	6 (7)

Still Birth Rate.

(Still Births per 1,000 total births).

1954	1953	1952	1938	1954 (England and Wales)
13.61	15.87	17.19	27.9	24.0 (22.4)

A decrease of 1 in the number of still births. This rate was down to almost half the national average.

Deaths.

M.	F.	Total.
176 (196)	151 (190)	327 (386)

Death Rate.

(Deaths per 1,000 population).

1954	1953	1952	1938	1954 (England & Wales)
11.71	13.85	9.37	12.5	11.3 (11.4)

As stated in the report for 1953, the Registrar General's Circular G.R.O. (M.O.H.) No. 4/1952 caused an alarming rise in the district death rate by 4.48 per thousand.

At the beginning of 1954 the Chronic Sick wards at All Saints' Hospital, now known as Bromsgrove General Hospital, were reprieved as "normal places of residence" and deaths occurring there were "transferred out" to the districts from whence they were admitted.

This alteration had the desired effect of bringing the death rate to a reasonable figure, being at 11.71 still higher than the average for England and Wales of 11.40 but 2.14 below that for 1953.

It is not possible to compare these statistics with any accuracy, with previous years because of these alterations in assessment. However, it is hoped that this year's figures will be a sound basis for comparison in future years.

The Major Causes of Death by Percentage.

1. Disease of the heart and circulatory system ... 46.0% (51.8%)
2. Cancer and other malignant disease ... 17.7% (14.2%)
3. Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) 14.4% (12.4%)
4. Accidents ... 4.3% (2.9%)
5. Tuberculosis ... 1.5% (2.1%)

The major causes of death remained in the same order as in the previous year. When compared with the 1952 percentages there is a significant increase shown in the percentage of Accidents : 1954—4.3% ; 1953—2.9% ; 1952—2.7%.

Percentage distribution of Deaths :

Age at Death.	%1954	%1953	%1952
0—1 year ...	4.28%	1.81%	4.25%
1—14 years	2.45%	2.07%	1.16%
15—44 years	5.20%	4.15%	7.34%
45—64 years	25.38%	19.43%	27.79%
65 and over.	62.69%	72.54%	59.46%

The percentage distribution of deaths shows a return to 1952 proportions.

Maternal Mortality.

(Maternal deaths per 1,000 total births).

1954	1953	1952	1938	1954 (England & Wales)
Nil.	2.26	Nil.	1.17	0.69 (0.76)

There were no maternal deaths.

Infant and Neonatal Mortality.

Infant Deaths.

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year).

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	9	4	13 (7)
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1 (—)
Total ...	10	4	14 (7)

Neonatal Deaths.

(Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks).

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	3	4	7 (6)
Illegitimate ...	—	—	— (—)
Total ...	3	4	7 (6)

Death Rates of Infants and Neonatal Deaths :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	1954	1953	1938	1954	(England & Wales)
Deaths of legitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 legitimate births	30.73	16.79	56.9	—
Deaths of illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births	62.50	Nil.	166.7	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	15.94	13.82	—	17.7
Deaths of all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	31.89	16.13	59.8	25.5 (26.8)

The Causes of Infant Deaths.

(Neonatal figures given in brackets).

	1954	1953	1952
Congenital Malformations	5 (3)	3 (3)	7 (6)
Meningitis	—	—	1
Prematurity	2	2 (2)	2 (2)
Respiratory Disease	5 (1)	1 (1)	1
Haemorrhagic Disease	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	—	1	—
Birth Trauma	2 (2)	—	—
Total	14 (6)	7 (6)	11 (8)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT,
1954.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mor-tal-ity Rate</i>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	4	1	5	0.18
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	1	1	0.04
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1	0.04
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2	4	0.14
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10	—	10	0.36
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast ...	—	7	7	0.25
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ...	—	2	2	0.07
14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms ...	22	13	35	1.25
15. Leukaemia. aleukaemia ...	—	1	1	0.04
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	20	21	41	1.47
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	26	13	39	1.40
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7	0.25
20. Other heart disease ...	28	31	59	2.12
21. Other circulatory disease ...	1	3	4	0.14
22. Influenza ...	—	1	1	0.04
23. Pneumonia ...	9	11	20	0.71
24. Bronchitis ...	12	9	21	0.75
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	2	3	0.11
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	1	7	0.25
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2	0.07
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	3	5	0.18
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	4	—	4	0.14
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	4	2	6	0.21
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	8	18	26	0.93
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	2	6	0.21
34. All other accidents ...	5	3	8	0.29
35. Suicide ...	2	—	2	0.07
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	176	151	327	11.71

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

<i>Clinic.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Time of Holding</i>
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre	Recreation Road	Wednesday 2.0 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre	Baptist Chapel.	Friday 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic	Recreation Road	Monday 10.0-12.0 noon and 2.0-4.0 p.m.
School Clinic	Recreation Road	Monday and Wednesday 10.0 a.m.—12.0 noon
Dental Clinic	Recreation Road	As arranged.
Tuberculosis	Bromsgrove General Hospital.	Tuesday, 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic	St. Chad's Church Hall.	1st and 3rd Thursdays 10.0 a.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare	St. Chad's Church Hall	1st and 3rd Thursdays 2.0 p.m.
Diphtheria : Immunisation and Vaccination	Recreation Road.	2nd and 4th Wednesdays 11.0 a.m.

These clinics, administered by the County Council, continued to do valuable service towards the preservation of health and the prevention of disease. The great help given at the Infant Welfare Clinics by voluntary workers was very much appreciated by the Medical and Nursing Staffs.

(b) Home Nursing and Midwifery.

Three agencies were available to provide help to the expectant mother :—(1) The family doctor—ante and post-natal care and conduct of the confinement ; (2) The County Council—ante-natal clinics and provision of midwives to conduct delivery or assist the family doctor as maternity nurses ; (3) Regional Hospital Board—provision of hospital beds for delivery and treatment. The functions of these three agencies overlapped to some degree, but, by co-operation between them, the midwifery service ran smoothly and to the benefit of mothers and their babies.

The County Medical Officer continued to act as Agent for the Regional Hospital Board in the allocation of beds.

The seven nurses resident within the Urban District attended :—

155 Cases as Midwives	making 2,675 visits.
26 Cases as Maternity Nurses	making 245 visits.
471 Cases as General Nurses	making 11,570 visits.

(c) Health Visiting.

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service.

Miss Hopkins, 15 Wellington Road, serves Bromsgrove itself.

Miss Gray, 73 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, serves Catshill.

Miss Wilcox, 3 Flat, Hill Fields, Redlake Road, Pedmore, serves Rubery.

(d) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, and chemical analyses were made by the County Laboratory, County Buildings, Worcester.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination.

The County Council provided a free Immunisation and Vaccination Service through which parents could have their children protected against Diphtheria and Smallpox, either through clinics or by their own doctors.

Locally, this service was arranged through the Urban Districts' Health Department. Details of the number of immunisations and vaccinations done is given under Section F.

(f) Hospitals.

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the districts'

1. Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen.
2. Maternity	Little Bromwich Fever Hospital. Bromsgrove General Hospital. Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge. Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.
3. General Medical and Surgical Cases	Bromsgrove General Hospital. Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Birmingham Hospitals.
4. Chest Surgery	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
5. Children's Diseases	Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
6. Venereal Disease	General Hospital, Birmingham. Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
7. Aged Chronic Sick.	Bromsgrove General Hospital.
8. Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.

All these hospital services were provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(g) Health Education.

The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education. In general, the working agreement has been that the Central Council for Health Education are responsible for supplying general health education material, while the District Council has to supply material used in campaigns for specific diseases as part of their Disease Prevention Service.

(h) Care of the Aged and Infirm.

Action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal of one old person to hospital.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors is given in the report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector and a detailed statement of the sanitary state of the district is included.

The water supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company is sampled frequently, both by the Company and the Sanitary Inspectors. Two specimen reports are set out below:—

(a) Sample marked Borehole, "Bigwood," Washingstocks Pumping Station.

<i>Physical Characters</i>	...	...	Clear.
Odour	...	...	None.
Deposit	...	...	None. pH 7.2.
<i>Chemical Examination</i> (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).			
Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	Nil.
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	...	...	28
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	25
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	3.3
Hardness Permanent	...	...	7
Hardness Temporary	...	...	12
Hardness Total	...	...	19
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	Trace
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	0.72
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	Nil.		
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	...	Nil per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	...	Nil per one ml.
Coli-Aerogenes Count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion : The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,
County Analyst,
23rd April, 1954.

(b) Sample marked Well and Borchole, "Earl of Plymouth," Burcot Pumping Station.

<i>Physical Characters</i>	...	...	Clear.
Odour	...	...	None.
Deposit	...	...	None. pH 6.8.
<i>Chemical Examination.</i> (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).			
Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	Nil.
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	...	...	22
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	20
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	3
Hardness Permanent	...	...	5
Hardness Temporary	...	...	9
Hardness Total	...	...	14
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	Trace
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	0.67
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	Nil.
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	...	2 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	...	Nil per one ml.
Coli-Aerogenes Count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion :—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,
County Analyst.

11th November, 1954.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal are supervised by the Surveyor. The collections of refuse are weekly in the town area and fortnightly in the more rural areas.

The number of loads from bins was 1,525.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The housing position at the end of 1954 was as follows :—

Number of houses in the district	...	...	...	8,419
Number of persons per house	...	...	...	3.4
Number of houses built by private enterprise	...	...	...	63
Number of houses built by Council	...	...	...	162
Number of houses under construction at end of year	...	...	...	159
Number of houses demolished during 1954	...	...	...	6

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details of the very considerable work carried out by the Health Department under this heading is given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1954.

Disease	Corrected Notifications	Admissions to Hospital.	Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	50	11	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	10	9	—
Measles	19	—	—
Whooping Cough	79	47	1
Acute Pneumonia	15	3	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—
Erysipelas	5	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	2	—
Totals	191 (613)	77 (127)	21 (24)

The number of notifications of infectious disease dropped to a third of that of the previous year. This was accounted for in the biennial fall in the incidence of Measles, with 19 cases notified (395).

Ten cases of Paratyphoid Fever were reported. Eight of these were in a residential institution. Two were outside contacts of this institution.

There were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria.

Four cases of Food Poisoning were notified, in three cases the organism *Salmonella Typhimurium* was found. There was no apparent connection between any of the cases, and in no case was the infected agent found.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality 1944—1954.		
Year	Cases	Deaths
1944	16	—
1945	13	1
1946	8	—
1947	8	—
1948	14	—
1949	1	—
1950	1	—
1951	—	—
1952	—	—
1953	—	—
1954	—	—

For the fourth consecutive year there were no cases of Diphtheria notified. The last Diphtheria death was in 1945.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1954 was as follows :—

Primary Immunisation.

		1954	1953	1952
Under 5 years	...	298	320	320
5—14 years	...	47	48	75
Total	...	345	368	395
Reinforcing "Booster"				
Injection	...	306	369	403

The "immunisation state" of Bromsgrove children on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows :—

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1—4 1953—1950	5—9 1949-1945	10—14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster).					
A. 1950-1954	27 (45)	1106 (1081)	1733 (1636)	315 (288)	3181 (3050)
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	489 (527)	1780 (1646)	2269 (2173)
Number of Births	439 (434)	1627 (1665)	—	—	—

Vaccination.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-Vaccinated) during 1954.

<i>Age at date of Vaccin- ation.</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total 1954</i>	<i>Total 1953</i>	<i>Total 1952</i>
Number Vaccin- ated	193 (199)	3	3	2	4	205	215	151
No. Re- Vaccin- ated	—	—	—	—	4	4	32	50

There were 10 less vaccinations recorded than in the previous year. The number vaccinated in the first year of life was 193, 6 less than in the previous year. This number of infants represents 44.2 % (47.5 %) of the average number of births in the two years 1954 and 1953 which was 437 (417).

Tuberculosis.

The state of the Tuberculosis List at the end of 1954 was as follows :

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary	99	79	178 (190)
Non-Pulmonary	11	11	22 (35)
TOTAL	110	90	200 (225)

Tuberculosis Incidence and Mortality for the year 1954.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	—	1	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	2	3	—	—	—	—
20—	4	3	1	—	—	—
25—	2	5	1	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	1	1	—	2	—
55—	2	2	—	—	1	1
65 and upwards	1	2	—	—	1	—
Age unknown	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	16	5	Nil	4	1
			30(17)		5	(Nil)	5(7)	Nil (1)

During the year 35 (17) new cases were notified, 30 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

Deaths at 5, were two less than in the previous year.

The total number on the List showed a decrease of 25. The reason for this fall, in spite of the increased number of notifications, was that 60 names were removed from the List as "Recovered," "Left District" or "Died."

The Bromsgrove Tuberculosis After-Care Committee continued to do good work in providing extra help and comforts to needy patients.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you a report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954.

Thirteen houses were represented for Demolition Order action, six houses were demolished and one house was the subject of a Closing Order. Since the Council adopted the policy in August, 1952, of allocating 10 per cent of new houses to re-house tenants from unfit houses, 48 unfit houses have been represented for Demolition Order action to the end of 1954.

The first week in July saw the end of meat rationing and a reversion to private slaughtering in the district. Of the fourteen slaughterhouses in use in 1938, only five were found to be suitable for use again. A schedule of repairs was prepared and the works were carried out, and four of these slaughterhouses were licensed. During the six months they have been in operation it will be noted that 235 cattle, 12 calves, 992 sheep and 405 pigs have been slaughtered.

More attention has now to be given to meat inspection and, in consequence, the number of routine visits is less this year than previous years.

I should like to again thank the members of the Staff for their willing co-operation at all times and, also, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support.

Details of the work done are contained in the body of the report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

	<i>Heifers</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
No. Notified	... 161	22	52	12	992	405
No. Inspected	... 161	22	52	12	992	405

MEAT CONDEMNED.

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Carcases	1	2	2	3	8
Part Carcasses ...	2	—	—	1	3
Forequarters ...	—	—	1	—	1
Heads	2	—	—	8	10
Lungs	13	—	12	14	39
Livers	30	—	22	13	65
Mesenteries ...	5	—	—	6	11
Hearts	—	—	—	4	4
Kidneys	1	—	—	2	3
Intestines ...	—	—	—	8	8

CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION AND APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Tuberculosis	812½	—	—	74½	887
Distomatosis ...	168	—	12	—	180
Echinococcus ...	85½	—	34	—	119½
Strongylus	—	—	8	—	8
Septic Pneumonia and Oedema	—	—	—	56	56
Bruising	—	—	20	—	20
Fevered & badly bled	—	—	60	—	60
Decomposition ...	77	49	—	—	126
Cirrhosis	1	—	2	23	26
Pericarditis	—	—	—	2	2
Emaciation	—	—	50	—	50
Generalised Oedema...	—	—	—	60	60
Abscesses	3	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	16	16
Nephritis	—	—	2	—	2
Jaundice	—	—	—	40	40
Swine Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	6	6
Pyæmia and Septicaæmia	—	62	—	—	62
Congestion	—	—	—	2	2
Enteritis	—	—	—	40	40
Bone Taint	74	—	—	—	74
Melanosis	—	—	1½	—	1½
Totals	1221	111	189½	319½	1841 lbs.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is listed below :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Meat Paste	... 4 Jars.	Decomposition.
Fruit Salad	... 2 Jars.	Fermentation.
Smoked Gammon	... 6 lbs.	Decomposition.
Haddock Fillets	... 24 lbs.	Decomposition.
Lemon Squash	... 4 Bottles	Fermentation and deterioration.
Cornflour	... 24 Packets	Contamination by oil and water.
Blackberries	... 4 Jars.	Fermentation and mould.
Gammon	... 21 lbs.	Decomposition.
Bacon	... 67 lbs.	Decomposition.
Pork Sausages	... 12 lbs.	Decomposition.
Soft Herring Roes.	8 lbs.	Decomposition.

Tinned Goods.

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	87 tins.
Tinned Soups, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2 tins.
Tinned Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	59 tins.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	34 tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	21 tins.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	...	...	257 tins.
Tinned Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	...	62 tins.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

On the resumption of local slaughtering, the Ministry of Food, Fatstock Marketing Division, licensed two Deadweight Certification Centres in the district and requested the Council to provide Certification Officers for the weighing and grading of pigs. The Council agreed to this and during the six months, 66 pigs were certified under the scheme.

Food Premises.

The total number of visits to food premises during the year was 583. This is a decrease on previous years, as due to the extra time taken on meat inspection, Housing, etc., it was not possible to do as many routine visits as normally. The food preparing premises were still given the greater attention and 171 swabs were taken from cafes and restaurants, etc. Although fewer swabs were taken, the percentage of swabs which were satisfactory (i.e. Colony Counts of less than 100 with no coliform bacilli present) was higher by 4%. There is still a lot to be done to bring this up to a higher standard.

The results are set out in the following table :—

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SWABS TAKEN FROM FOOD PREMISES.

TYPE OF UTENSIL	No. of Swabs Taken.	COLONY COUNTS.			BACTERIUM COLI		% of Total Swabs taken which are considered satisfactory*
		Sterile	Under 100	Over 100 and less than 1,000	Over 1000 and less than 10,000	Over 10,000 and less than 100,000	
Tea Cups	103	27	19	39	16	—	44.7
Tea Plates	28	7	4	11	6	—	39.3
Dinner Plates	28	4	5	11	4	3	32.1
Dessert Spoons....	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Forks	4	1	2	1	—	—	75.0
Glass Tumblers	4	2	2	—	—	—	100.0
Soup Plate	1	1	—	—	—	—	100.0
Coffee Cup	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	171	42	32	64	26	4	148
					3		23
						11	43.2

*Colony Counts of below 100 with no coliform bacteria present.

The Clean Food Lectures which were given at the early part of the year were commented upon in last year's report.

Enquiries were made in the district after a tin of cream containing *Salmonella Typhi* had been found in Birmingham. One local retailer had purchased a dozen tins of this cream some eight months previously. Two tins were recovered, one by Birmingham Public Health Department which a customer had taken to them, and the other one was recovered on visiting the retailer. A report was given to the local press advising persons who may have any of these tins to submit them to this department. The tin recovered from the retailer was submitted to the Pathological Laboratory and it was reported to be free from pathogens.

Samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory following an alleged outbreak of food poisoning involving five persons, were reported to be free from anaerobic or other pathogenic organisms which would account for the intestinal upset.

The following is a summary of the number of food premises in the district. The main business carried on at the premises has been used for classification purposes, as it will be appreciated that most of the food shops are concerned with more than one type of business :—

Provisions	...	...	...	98
Catering	...	...	...	16
Fish—Wet	...	...	...	5
Fried	...	...	...	9
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	34
Butchers	...	...	...	25
Confectioners	...	...	...	11
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers	...	...	...	12
Bakers	...	...	...	14
Canteens	...	...	...	11

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is :—

(a) Ice Cream Premises	...	92
(b) Premises for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food	...	29

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

During the year there were ten applications under the above Act and ten renewals. In all cases applicants stated that they were prepared to use a humane killer and the licences were granted subject to that condition. As from the 1st January, 1955, all applicants must state the kind of animals to be slaughtered and the type of instrument to be used for stunning.

Milk Supply.

Thirty-four visits were made to the three dairies in the district. The number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination was 87, and they are classified below :—

<i>Samples.</i>	<i>No. taken for bacteriological examination.</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Undesignated Raw Milk ...	25	23	2
Sterilised Milk ...	8	8	—
Tuberculin Tested			
Pasteurised ...	21	21	—
Pasteurised ...	19	19	—
Tuberculin Tested	14	13	1
TOTALS ...	87	84	3

Two unsatisfactory samples were referred to the Milk Production Officer for his attention. Twelve bottles from a bottle washing plant were submitted for bacteriological examination. In addition to the above, 9 samples of raw undesignated milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacillus and for brucellosis, all 9 samples were reported by the Bacteriologist to be satisfactory. As from the 1st October, 1954, Bromsgrove became a "designated area" and milk sold by retail in the district from that date must be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised Milk.

The number of licences in force under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations is as follows :—

	<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Accredited</i>	<i>Pasteurised.</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>
No. of Dealer's Licences	4	Nil.	6	12
No. of Supplementary Licences	8	Nil.	7	8

Ice Cream.

Samples of Ice Cream taken for bacteriological examination numbered 118. The results, with a comparison of 1953 figures, are set out below :—

Ice Cream—Bacteriological Results 1953 and 1954.

<i>Grade.</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>%</i>
1.	109	94.0	1	112	94.9
2.	4	3.4	2	2	1.7
3.	2	1.7	3	4	3.4
4.	1	0.9	4	—	—
Total	116	100.0	Total	118	100.0

During the year there were 9 applications for registration for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream and 2 applications for the sale of Ice Cream (loose).

The number of premises registered is :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice

Cream 7

Sale only 28

Sale only 25
Sale of Pre-packed only ... 57

Food and Drugs Act—Sampling.

I am authorised by the County Council to act as a Sampling Officer on their behalf within the district. Sampling under this arrangement is independent of, and in addition to, sampling carried out by the County Officers.

Samples taken and submitted for analysis were as follows :—

Milk—Formal Samples 64

Two samples were found to be deficient in fat. The results of the samples, together with the "Appeal" samples, are listed below:—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
918	6.7 % Deficient in fat	
920	13.33 % Deficient in fat	
922	11.66 % Deficient in fat	
923	35 % Deficient in fat.	
924	13.33 % Deficient in fat	
927	10 % Deficient in fat	
929	33.33 % Deficient in fat	
931	13.33 % Deficient in fat.	
932	16.66 % Deficient in fat	
941	13.33 % Deficient in fat	

The above samples were obtained from two purveyors of milk.

The follow-up and "Appeal to cow" samples proved the milk to be genuine but of abnormally low fat content.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

An analysis of the sanitary accommodation, drainage and water supply position of houses in the district, is set out below :—

	No.	%
No. of houses in District	... ... ...	8419
No. of houses with Separate W.C.'s	... ...	7294
No. of houses with Combined W.C.'s	... ...	432
No. of houses with Privies and Earth Closets	... ...	111
No. of houses with Pails and Chemicals	... ...	523
No. of houses with Combined Pails	... ...	37
No. of houses with Waste Water Closets	... ...	22
No. of houses with Separate Mains Water Supply	7830	93.0
No. of houses with Standpost Mains Water Supply	467	5.6
No. of houses with Wells, Springs or Pump		
Water Supply	... ...	122
No. of houses with Baths	... ... ...	5921
No. of houses connected to Sewer	... ...	7050
No. of houses connected to Cesspools	... ...	894
No. of houses connected to Septic Tanks	... ...	157
No. of houses with No Proper Drainage	... ...	318
		3.7

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There were 16 applications during the year for the stationing of caravans for human habitation, involving a total of 49 vans. Nine applications were approved for a total of 11 vans.

The applications refused were :—

- 1 van at Green Lane.
- 1 van at New Road, Bromsgrove.
- 1 van at Staple Flat.
- 1 van at Marlbrook Lane.
- 4 vans at Grafton Lane.
- 1 van at Graham Crescent, Rubery.
- 29 vans at Rednal Hill Lane, Rubery.

These seven refusals involved a total of 38 vans.

During the year there were 35 applications for renewal of licences involving 59 caravans. Four caravans were removed during the year. The total number of caravans licensed in the district is now 88.

Licences are granted for a period of six months excepting the case of two larger sites which are licensed for a period of years. All sites are inspected periodically.

Water Supply.

Twenty-four samples of the town's main water supply were submitted to the County Analyst and the Pathological Laboratory for chemical and bacteriological analysis, all of which were satisfactory. Six samples of water from wells and springs etc., were submitted, three of which were unsatisfactory.

Drainage.

Below is a summary of the work done on drainage during the year :

Houses connected to sewer (excluding new houses) ...	10
Houses connected to cesspool (excluding new houses) ...	3
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	32
No. of tests applied to house drains	185
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, urinals, etc., dealt with	11
No. of cesspools abolished	8
New W.C.'s provided in lieu of pails etc.	10
New baths provided	2
No. of pails abolished	6

Cesspool Emptying.

As in other years, the cesspool emptying service undertaken by the Council has continued the emptying of cesspools approximately twice yearly, where no sewer is available. It has also been used for sewer flushing. Some difficulty was experienced during the year in obtaining a driver for the vehicle.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Emptier during the year :—

No. of Cesspools Emptied	1185
No. of Loads from Cesspools	1006
No. of Privies Emptied	312
No. of Pails Emptied	1096
Mileage Covered	6149

Ashes Accommodation.

During the year 665 dustbins were delivered to householders and 647 inspections were made for this purpose.

Disinfestation.

No. of houses disinfested	3
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The method employed for disinfestation of houses is spraying with Zaldecide/D.D.T.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Operator is employed to undertake treatment on all Council and private properties, and a summary of the work carried out is set out below. The rodent problem in the district is now mainly reduced to minor scattered infestations and the maintenance treatments of sewers and the brookcourse, together with block control of centres of infestation, have kept the town district comparatively free from rats. The scattered infestations referred to are usually associated with domestic poultry or pig-keeping. The Sewage Works and refuse tips receive regular attention.

No. of Treatments at Private Dwellings ...	267
No. of Treatments at Business Premises ...	54
No. of Treatments at Council Premises	
(Sewage Outfall Works, Tips, Housing Estates, etc.)	23
No. of Sewer Treatments	2
No. of Brookcourse Treatments	6
No. of Properties Revisited and Surveyed	1226
No. of Agricultural Properties Surveyed ...	24

On Maintenance Treatment and Annual Test Bait, "no takes" were recorded in any sewers in the district.

Pets Act, 1951.

Two applications were received under the above Act. Both licences were granted.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	315
Number abated...	...	...	268
Number of notices served (Informal 133, Formal 19).			
Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	Nil.

Inspections.

Inspections carried out in the year are recorded below :—

	Re-	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Inspection</i>
Houses under Public Health Acts	...	293	695
Overcrowding	...	1	—
Water Supply	...	62	14
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	248	38
Entertainment Houses	...	1	—
Ashes Accommodation	...	647	—
Accumulations	...	13	3
Animals or Birds	...	8	6
Stable Premises	...	2	—
Piggeries	...	17	16
Drainage Inspections	...	623	454
Drainage Tests	...	185	—
Closets—Water	...	24	26
Pails or Privies	...	22	10
Cesspools	...	343	27
Urinals	...	2	2
Sewers and Street Gullies	...	46	1
Milkshops and Dairies	...	34	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	167	—
Meat Depot	...	6	—
Slaughterhouses for Meat Inspection	...	382	8
Slaughterhouses—Miscellaneous	...	23	—
Food Preparing Premises	...	198	—
General Food Premises	...	182	1
Cottagers Pigs	...	5	—
Licensed Premises	...	8	—
Factories	...	40	6
Bakehouses	...	28	2
Shops Act	...	1	—
Rats and Mice Acts	...	75	—
Verminous Premises	...	5	—
Infectious Diseases	...	152	2
Houses Disinfected	...	7	—
Housing—Section II	...	79	7
Housing—Other Visits	...	482	—
Smoke Abatement	...	1	—
Sanitary Survey	...	66	—
Petroleum Act	...	81	—
Miscellaneous Visits	...	417	—
Interviews—Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	...	305	—

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED.

W.C. Pedestals renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Obstructed Drains	...	...	...	...	27
W.C. Flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	29
Ceiling plaster made good	...	...	...	...	32
Wallplaster made good	...	...	...	...	21
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Eavespouting and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	20	
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Firegrates renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools and Septic Tanks repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Dustbins provided by Local Authority	...	...	665		
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22	
Repairs to waste pipes and gullies	...	...	...	11	
Cold water systems	...	...	...	...	3
Repairs to drains and drainage systems	...	...	...	5	
Defective sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Washbasins and baths repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3	
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Pump repaired	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the local authority	...	...	...	...	...	162
(ii) By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	...	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	,	...	...	...	...	63

1. *Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	293	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	988	
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	26	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	26	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	85	

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	75
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3. *Action under statutory powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners Nil.

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 133

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 13

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 13

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 6

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors) :—

Premises.	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	96	70	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	2	—	—
TOTAL ...	109	76	7	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) Insufficient...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	12	7	—	6	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	13	8	—	7	—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixty-seven licences were issued during 1954 for the storage of 93,067 gallons of petroleum spirit.

